

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A deck board fastening device for securing deck boards to a support structure, said device comprising:
a top plate including a first flange and a second flange joined together along respective longitudinal edges, each of said flanges extending outward in a substantially horizontal plane, the juncture of said flanges defining the longitudinal center of said top plate;
a first compression element extending from said top plate;
a second compression element, opposed to said first compression element, extending from said top plate.
2. The deck board fastening device of claim 1 wherein said compression elements extend from corresponding tabs located at the longitudinal ends of said top plate.
3. The deck board fastening device of claim 1 further comprising a pedestal extending downward from the lower, center surface of said top plate, said wherein said compression elements project from said pedestal.

4. The deck board fastening device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said compression elements projects upward from the top surface of said top plate and at least one of said compression elements projects downward from the bottom surface of said top plate.

5. The deck board fastening device of claim 1 wherein said compression elements comprise outwardly diverging prongs.

6. The deck board fastening device of claim 1 wherein said compression elements comprise hollow-centered loops.

7. The deck board fastening device of claim 6 wherein said loops are circular in cross section.

8. The deck board fastening device of claim 6 wherein said loops are rectangular in cross section.

9. The deck board fastening device of claim 6 wherein said loops are polygonal in cross section.

10. A deck board fastening device for securing deck boards to a support structure, said device comprising:

- a top plate including a first flange and a second flange joined together along respective longitudinal edges, each of said flanges extending outward in a substantially horizontal plane, the juncture of said flanges defining the longitudinal center of said top plate, said top plate having a first end and a longitudinally opposed second end;
- a hole extending through said top plate at the center of said top plate;
- a first tab extending from said top plate in proximity to said first end;
- a second tab extending from said top plate in proximity to said second end;
- a first compression element projecting from said first tab; and,
- a second compression element projecting from said second tab.

11. A method of fastening boards to a supporting structure comprising the steps of:

providing a suitable supporting structure;

providing at least two boards for fastening to said supporting structure to form a platform;

forming a first slot in a side edge of a first board at a location where said board crosses an underlying support structure member;

forming a second slot in a side edge of a second board at a location where said second board crosses said underlying support structure member, said side edge of said second board facing said side edge of said first board;

providing a fastener having a first flange and a second flange joined together along respective longitudinal edges, each of said flanges extending outward in a substantially horizontal plane, a center hole projecting downward through the vertical axis of said fastener, a first compression element extending from a first longitudinal end of said fastener, and a second compression element, longitudinally opposed to said first compression element and extending from a second longitudinal end of said fastener;

inserting said first flange into said first slot;

moving said second board in proximity to said first board and said fastener so as to engage said second slot with said second flange, wherein a gap remains between said first and second boards, the width of said gap being determined principally by the width of said first and second compression elements; and

attaching said fastener to said underlying support structure member.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of attaching said fastener comprises driving an attachment means through said center hole and into said underlying support structure member.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said attachment means comprises a nail.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said attachment means comprises a screw.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the longitudinal axis of said attachment means is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of said fastener.